

## STABLE TARIFF IS PREACHED BY MR. MEIGHEN

Canada Should Husband Her  
Great Natural Resources

EXPORTS TO U.S. GROW

Depletion of Dominion's Wood  
Resources Results—Clash  
With Macdonald

Special to The Gazette.

Ottawa, March 3.—The leader of the Opposition, the Right Honorable Arthur Meighen, launched an attack this afternoon upon the King Government, when he gave the views of the Conservative party towards the record of the Liberals since their success at the polls in December, 1921. Mr. Meighen was speaking on the debate on the address on the Speech from the Throne, and, though suffering from a cold, which at times made his voice almost inaudible in the crowded chamber, yet his style of speech and argument were in no way impaired, and he roused his followers' time and again to enthusiasm. While he was careful to follow the traditional policy of a leader of the Opposition, to criticize the policy of the Government rather than to announce the political doctrines of his own party, he preached the gospel of stability in tariff matters, the careful husbanding of the great natural resources of the Dominion, and the development of Canada for Canadians along lines which would eliminate unemployment and give work to all. He compared Canada to the United States, showing how the progress of the former country since 1921 had been so phenomenal, that, instead of struggling the world over to induce people to come to them, they are actually spending millions to keep people out. He devoted a part of his speech to the increase in our exports to the United States, and pointed out that it was mostly due to the export of wood and the products of wood. In these products he stated that the exports had increased from \$188,000,000 in 1921 to \$267,553,000 in 1923, being an increase of \$80,000,000 in total product. Of interest to the province of Quebec was the statement of Mr. Meighen, when he said that, speaking of the export of our wood and wood products, "there is nothing to boast of, there is nothing to rejoice over, there is nothing to congratulate ourselves upon, in this very rapid depletion of our wood resources. When the trees of Canada are gone, generations will pass before that resource can be restored."

Mr. Meighen pointed out that when one looks at the exports of the United States, over half of the exports consist of wood and the products of wood. At the outset he attacked the Government for its wobbling tariff policy, and, discussing trade with the United States, argued that Canada at the present moment is simply engaged in shipping her raw resources in millions to feed the workshops of other lands. He argued that Canada is buying from the United States manufactured products to the extent of 70 to 80 per cent., and which constitute goods that are made out of resources of the Dominion. He stated that the United States was in the happy position of shipping goods in-

to Canada produced by their own workmen from raw resources shipped to them from Canada. Mr. Meighen also devoted attention to the increase of the imports from Great Britain, particularly in the matter of fibre and textiles, and instanced the case of the importation of \$40,000,000 worth of wool and woollen yarns, of which over 80 per cent. could have been made in this country.

### WOOLLEN MILLS CLOSING.

This state of affairs existed under this Government when woollen mills were now being shut down and the looms in many other mills were idle throughout the country.

The leader of the Opposition gave voice to the general dissatisfaction throughout the country on the exodus of Canadians to the United States and pointed out in this connection that out of 130 woollen factories in this country twenty were closed down and 40 per cent. of the remainder had idle looms.

Turning to the farmers, the leader of the Opposition stated that western farmers now pay 20 per cent. more for farm implements under the Liberal Government than when the Conservative party were in power. In other words, the farmers were getting less for their grain and paying more for their farm implements.

Mr. Meighen gave the Government no quarter on their attitude in dealing with tariff matters, pointing out that they had shifted from one position to another for the purpose of securing support from the Progressive party. Amidst loud laughter he remarked: "The Government went on the principle that round stones would serve as well as eggs to make hens lay."

### CLASH WITH MINISTER.

His shafts of satire, combined with a sardonic humor, held the close attention of a crowded House during a speech of over two hours. He travelled the whole orbit of the Government's activities since coming into office, and at times had members of the Government on their feet in response to his fire. A scene which was dealt with promptly by Speaker Lemieux occurred between Hon. Mr. Macdonald, minister of national defence, and Mr. Meighen. The latter had accused the minister of introducing a labor candidate into the contest in North Cape Breton election, which was promptly denied, and a demand for withdrawal made. Mr. Meighen, after some heated words between him and the minister of national defence, qualified the statement, and the Speaker accepted the same. The leader of the Opposition drew a humorous picture of the negotiations which took place between the Hon. Mr. Crerar and Mr. Dunning, when it was a question of their being included in the cabinet. He did not forget to accuse the prime minister of sending for the wrong man in Mr. Crerar, who was not the leader of his party.

It was evident that Mr. Forke, the leader of the Progressive party, who was in his place in the House, enjoyed this thrust at the prime minister. Andrew McMaster (Independent Liberal member for Brome), who now sits with the Labor members opposite his own party, also seemed to enjoy the performance of the leader of the Opposition, as he poured shot and shell into the ranks of Mr. McMaster's former colleagues.

### ELECTIONEERING DOCUMENT.

Mr. Meighen characterized the Speech from the Throne as a "most attenuated and anaemic effort," and simply an "electioneering document." He criticized the Government for not waiting until the budget to give an intimation of tariff changes, and stated that it was contrary to all precedent to announce them beforehand. He argued, however, that it was done for the purpose of getting Progressive votes and holding them in office.

Calling upon the House to show him in what instance there was any promise of stability for the country in the Speech from the Throne, the leader of the Opposition characterized the whole speech "as at the best a collection of hopes mixed in with zigzag philosophy and the twilight musings of the Government before their last long sleep."

In conclusion, he stated that the people of the country were only waiting for an opportunity at the polls to put an end to such conduct.

The leader of the Opposition enhanced what is undoubtedly a high parliamentary reputation by his effort of this afternoon. While he spoke under wraps in anticipation of the caucus of the Conservative party tomorrow, when its sessional policy will be decided on, it is very evident that on tariff matters the Conservative party still stands by the National Policy, and pins its faith to protection for the development of the Dominion and the wellbeing of those who live within its borders. He made a speech which Mr. King found it difficult to follow. What is more important, however, from his own standpoint, is that he carried his followers with him from the beginning to the end by the irresistible force and sweep of his logic and reason.

### DEBATE ON ADDRESS

Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen  
Opens Attack on Government

(By Canadian Press.)

Ottawa, March 3.—The debate on the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne was opened in the House of Commons this afternoon by F. J. Kelly (Liberal), North Cape Breton and Victoria. He attributed improved conditions in the country to the confidence felt by the people in the present Government. From the Progressive benches he drew applause by stating that taxation must be made to bear lightly on the tillers of the soil. The Canadian people should never forget that the responsibility for the high taxation at present rested on the predecessors of the present Government, who had contracted the great obligations which must now be met.

Mr. Kelly commented on the information that the budget would be balanced this year for the first time in eleven years, and prophesied that the time was not far distant when Canada would even see a surplus, with the country enjoying the prosperity which marked the days of the Laurier regime.

He favored the introduction of legislation to deal with marine insurance, an increase in the preferential tariff on British goods, where it was consistent with the interests of Canadian industries, and urged that consideration should be given the greater utilization of Canadian coal, suggesting that Canadian mines should be given better protection through the tariff and decreased freight rates. Mr. Kelly spoke at some length on the necessity for railway branch lines in many parts of Canada, particularly in Victoria County, in his own constituency.

Seconding the address, E. A. Lapierre (Liberal, Nipissing), referred to the tremendous ore deposits of Northern Ontario. The development of the mining industry, he said, constitutes one of the bases of national prosperity. He congratulated the Government on its policy of reduction of expenses and rigid economy. In reference to the development of the St. Lawrence waterways, Mr. Lapierre asked that the Government should give consideration to the Georgian Bay Canal scheme before making any settlement in regard to development of the St. Lawrence River. He declared that the benefits of the Government's immigration policy were showing themselves and endorsed selective immigration.

### MEIGHEN'S CRITICISM.

Right Hon. Arthur Meighen, leader of the Opposition, in opening his criticism, mingled with his congratulations to the mover and seconder, a comment upon Mr. Kelly's enthusiasm over the evidences of prosperity and the excellence of the Government. "Partisan adulation," he remarked, "could scarcely reach a more exquisite perfection than that."

Judging by the speeches of the afternoon and also by passages from the Speech from the Throne, Mr. Meighen continued, the Government was anxious to convince the House and the country that the country was in a state of satisfactory prosperity. He did not know what the evidences of that prosperity were, or what the Government has done to bring them into existence. The increase in the exports and imports of Canada had been appealed to as a conclusive evidence of the sound and healthy condition of the country. It was true that the external trade of Canada was greater than it had been during the past two years, but when comparison was made with the United States the condition of Canada did not appear so bright. Moreover, an examination of the nature of the exports and imports gave serious ground for reflection.

Mr. Meighen then went on to analyze the Canadian trade returns and pointed out first that in the record harvest of 1922 and 1923 the Dominion had had through the bounty of Providence a basic condition for a rapid advance in prosperity. The grain exports during the last year exceeded those of 1921 by 100,000,000 bushels. Moreover, the grain exports

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